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SEP 05 2001

4 MR. BENEZET: It's now a little past 1:00 and
5 I'm rather tired. My mood has changed from outrage to
6 exasperation to exhaustion as the evening has
7 progressed, so I suppose one positive aspect of this
8 whole process is that you have a mellower Mr. Benezet
9 to deal with.

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10 I was one of the people that was shouting at
11 the speakers and the podium when I came in. What
12 ticked me off when I walked through the door out here
13 was seeing the consultants that work for the Nuclear
14 Waste Program for Lincoln County, funded by the DOE.
15 Three of them were out in force, employees of Robison &
16 Seidler. Aside from myself, I don't believe there was
17 anybody else from Lincoln County despite the fact we
18 paid the firm of Robison & Seidler to help us monitor
19 the Yucca Mountain program. They didn't think it was
20 worth their effort to notify anybody in Lincoln County
21 about these hearings. Of course, that's also partly
22 the DOE's fault for not giving enough time frame
23 between their announcement in the Federal Register and
24 the actual hearing dates. It's inexcusable. Other
25 counties have done better. Eureka County sent out

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1 mailings to all their citizens to make sure that people
2 that far away knew what was going on.

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3 The reason I mention it, which you may not
4 feel it's worthy of mention, but we've heard different
5 kinds of comments tonight and they've fallen into the
6 comments of those who seem to be for the dump and those
7 who seem to be against it and those who have spoken
8 tonight for the dump have repeatedly used the same
9 expressions. One of the expressions I heard tonight
10 was, the anti-s are focusing on the process. And this
11 is a tactic that intervenors use.

12 I heard the same exact words from Mr. Paul
13 Seidler one day at a nuclear waste meeting in Lincoln
14 County when I asked him if he would mind telling me,
15 giving me a client list for the Robison & Seidler firm.
16 He said he declined to do that and our chairman of the
17 Nuclear Waste Committee didn't press him on it. Then
18 he made that statement and I heard the identical
19 statement from Bill Vasconi tonight and it should be no
20 surprise that Robison & Seidler, who works for Lincoln
21 County, also works for the study committee, which is
22 Mr. Bill Vasconi's committee. Robison & Seidler has

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23 also in the past worked for the Nuclear Energy
24 Institute, and Paul Seidler is on the transportation
25 committee of the energy community's alliance, who you
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1 also heard here to tonight.

2 There should be no surprise that all these
3 people made it to the hearing and spoke early on.
4 Robison & Seidler works for Esmeralda County and they
5 showed up in force. Those of you who were prepared and
6 coached to give the line that Robison & Seidler give
7 them to give. Seidler used to work for HHOC. Now
8 they're representing the counties in the oversight of
9 the Yucca Mountain Project. They're speaking for us
10 citizens addressing the impact of what affects us.
11 Instead, they're manipulating the scene so the message
12 that comes out of these hearings comes from the people
13 who are supporting the program and not from those of us
14 who are against it.

15 I am delighted that citizens in Lincoln
16 County have been so effective that they thought it
17 worthwhile not to let us know about these hearings
18 because had this been a couple years ago, you would
19 have seen a group from Lincoln County here going

20 through the same song and dance that the folks from
21 Esmeralda County were going through tonight. This is
22 nothing against the folks from Esmeralda County.

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23 I have been infuriated over the way in which
24 the process has been manipulated by people with a lot
25 more influence and money than the average citizens is

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1 able to bring to bear on this. But that doesn't mean
2 that I'm ready to stop.

3 I came to Pioche in 1980. I was not new to
4 Lincoln County. I've been a visitor as a kid. My
5 mother was actually born there. When I arrived in
6 Pioche, a thread in my life began which has lasted ever
7 since and that thread is Citizen Alert. Since 1987,
8 I've been on and off the board of directors of Citizen
9 Alert. I am not a would-be activist seeking a cause.
10 I didn't have to look for it. It was in my backyard.

11 When I arrived in Pioche, we were in the
12 middle of MX country and we needed help. We needed
13 somebody who was out there giving information to
14 ordinary people so they could know what to do when they
15 went to public hearings and said, what's this going to
16 do to us, to be right in the middle of a major missile

17 base when we thought we were moving to the country?

18 A few years later, a group of us battled a

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19 proposal for a toxic waste incinerator to be located

20 within two miles of the town of Pioche, about a half

21 mile from my own dwelling. Again, Citizen Alert helped

22 us organize leaflets to the community so we could let

23 people know about what was going on.

24 When I was coming down today, I looked

25 through a stack of papers in my car to see what I would

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1 bring into the room today and I have here Citizen

2 Alert, silver anniversary, 25 years, a voice for the

3 land and people of Nevada. And I want to remind Bill

4 Vasconi and Paul Seidler and anybody else who wishes to

5 listen, that there is an alternative to saying it's

6 inevitable, we've got a deal for dollars. There is the

7 alternative is Citizen Alert and it has been

8 tremendously effective.

9 This battle has been going on for 25 years.

10 Citizen Alert was founded when two women read an

11 article in a paper that said -- this was in 1974 --

12 that the AEC proposes a Nevada test site as a nuclear

13 waste disposal site. They pooled their resources and

14 they went to the hearing. Where was the hearing? The
15 hearing was in Salt Lake City. The sites that were
16 being considered, under consideration for housing all
17 the nation's nuclear waste and all the military nuclear
18 waste were the Nevada test site, Idaho National
19 Laboratories, and Hanford, Washington.

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20 You know, it's not rocket science. The
21 theory was, we own the land already, we've already
22 contaminated it and made victims of the people out of
23 there and gotten away with it. We can do all we want
24 with those guys. They made it to the hearing and they
25 spoke up. They pointed out that the EIS that had been

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1 prepared for the project was inadequate and they
2 succeeded in having it withdrawn. It was a major
3 victory.

4 In 1982, we had the Nuclear Waste Act. In
5 the beginning of the process that we're in right now, a
6 process which is either coming to an end or reaching a
7 major milestone at this time. We've gone through the
8 whole process of participating as citizens in
9 monitoring a supposedly scientific solution to the
10 problem of solving the nation's nuclear waste. And

11 yet, as much as we have committed ourselves to this
12 process and participated in it, and I myself have
13 attended hearings, I've attended hearings on the PEIS,
14 the DEIS for the Yucca Mountain program and this
15 hearing tonight.

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17 MODERATOR BROWN: We still have 40 names
18 left.

19 MR. BENEZET: I'll try to wrap up.

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21 MODERATOR BROWN: Thanks very much.

22 MR. BENEZET: We finally reached the point
23 where I think it's clear that what we knew from the
24 very beginning has always been the case. Yucca
25 Mountain was singled out before it was ever evaluated

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1 scientifically. Science has always had to be
2 manipulated to make the foregone conclusion fit
3 whatever evidence they were able to come up with.
4 They've continually revised the criteria under which
5 the site would be selected.

6 It's, for example, if we were, as Nevadans,
7 on trial for having committed a major crime, we would

8 go into court with some confidence that they would have

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9 to prove us guilty in order for us to actually end up

10 in jail. That's not the way this system works. There

11 is no criteria under which Nevada escapes under the DOE

12 rules. But there is one thing that remains after this

13 process is complete and that is Citizen Action.

14 Citizen Action will never die and it will hopefully

15 eventually stop this program dead. Thank you.